

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/IB:AWLUKENS:MS

APPROVED BY P - MR. SISCO

EUR - MR. LAINGEN

S/S - MR. R. KUCHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146238

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH UNDER SECRETARY ROVIRA'S CALL ON UNDER
SECRETARY SISCO CONCERNING SAHARA

1. SPANISH FOREIGN OFFICE UNDER SECRETARY ROVIRA,
LEADER OF SPANISH NEGOTIATING TEAM, CALLED ON UNDER
SECRETARY SISCO JUNE 19. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR
ALBA AND DIRECTOR GENERAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS PERINAT.
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LAINGEN AND IB DIRECTOR
LUKENS ALSO ATTENDED.

2. ROVIRA OPENED BY EXPRESSING HIS APPRECIATION FOR
CHANCE TO EXPLAIN GOS POSITION ON SAHARA. HE SAID HE
HAD BEEN ASKED BY FONMIN CORTINA TO ADVISE USG THAT
MOROCCO HAD NOT WELCOMED SPANISH INITIATIVES IN CALLING
FOR QUADRI-PARTITE TALKS. HE SAID MOROCCO PREFERRED
BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WHEREAS SPAIN WANTED ALL THREE
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MAGHREB COUNTRIES TO SIT DOWN TOGETHER WITH HER. ROVIRA
WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT GOS HAD APPROACHED OTHER THREE
GOVERNMENTS SEEKING THEIR COOPERATION IN ASSURING PEACEFUL

DECOLONIZATION PROCESS. HE SAID THAT THERE COULD BE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION IF NEIGHBORS WOULD COOPERATE AND WOULD NOT ALLOW GUERRILLA WARFARE.

3. ROVIRA WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT AFTER GOS HAD ADVISED UNSYG CONCERNING SPANISH PLANS FOR DECOLONIZATION, GOS CALLED IN AMBASSADORS OF OTHER THREE COUNTRIES TO INVITE THEM TO A CONFERENCE IN MADRID. ALGIERS HAD AGREED, MOROCCO WAS AMBIGUOUS AND MAURITANIA HAD TAKEN A NEUTRAL POSITION. ROVIRA SAID THAT GOS WOULD TRY ONCE AGAIN TO CALL A CONFERENCE IN MADRID BUT THAT IF THAT FAILED, GOS WOULD ASK THE UN TO HELP NEGOTIATE THE DECOLONIZATION.

4. ROVIRA WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF UN INTERVENTION FAILED, GOS WOULD THEN MOVE AHEAD AND TRANSFER SOVEREIGNTY TO WHATEVER ENTITY COULD BE FOUND, BE IT A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT, A UN-TRUSTEESHIP OR SOME OTHER MECHANISM. HE ADDED THAT NO ONE WANTED WAR IN THE AREA BUT THAT MIGHT BE THE RESULT IF THE INTERESTED PARTIES REFUSED TO TALK TO EACH OTHER.

5. SISCO ASKED WHETHER OR NOT THE ALGERIANS OR MAURITANIANS HAVE TALKED TO MOROCCO. ROVIRA REPLIED THAT WHILE THEY HAD ALL DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH EACH OTHER, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE MOROCCANS HAD CHANGED THEIR BASIC POSITION WHICH WAS THAT THE SPANISH SHOULD TURN THE SAHARA DIRECTLY OVER TO THEM. SPAIN'S BASIC INTEREST, ROVIRA WENT ON, WAS TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF THE 10,000 SPANISH CITIZENS THERE. HE ADDED THAT THEIR EVACUATION HAD ALREADY BEGUN. SISCO ASKED WHERE THE SITUATION STOOD NOW WITH THE MOROCCANS. ROVIRA REPLIED THAT THE SPANISH HAD TALKED TO THEM ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS BUT THE GOM REPLY WAS ALWAYS AMBIGUOUS, ALTERNATING BETWEEN PRIVATE CONCILIATORY MESSAGES FROM THE KING TO PUBLIC LEAKS SUPPORTING OPPOSING POSITIONS. ROVIRA THEN ASKED SISCO IF THE USG COULD ENCOURAGE MOROCCO TO AGREE TO MEET WITH SPAIN.

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6. SISCO STATED THAT THE USG FEELS THAT THE SITUATION SHOULD BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY. WE HAVE ALSO STAYED OUT OF SUBSTANCE OF MATTER. WE ARE KEENLY INTERESTED IN AND SYMPATHETIC WITH SPANISH EFFORTS TO MOVE TOWARDS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. HE ASKED IF ROVIRA MEANT THAT THE U.S. SHOULD HELP TO ARRANGE A CONFERENCE. ROVIRA SAID THAT WAS WHAT HE MEANT, NOTING THAT IF THE MOROCCANS JOINED SUCH A CONFERENCE THE OTHERS WOULD FALL IN LINE. ROVIRA SAID THE GOS INSISTED ON THE PRESENCE OF ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA TO BALANCE THAT OF MOROCCO. HE STATED THAT A VIABLE SOLUTION REQUIRED THE COOPERATION OF ALL THREE

MAGHREB COUNTRIES. IN ANSWER TO LAINGEN'S QUESTION ABOUT TIMING, ROVIRA REPLIED THAT THE GOS PLANNED TO ASK THE OTHER THREE COUNTRIES TO COME TO MADRID BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH. IF THAT PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL, SPAIN WOULD TAKE THE MATTER TO THE UN IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

7. SISCO THANKED ROVIRA FOR HIS EXPLANATION, SAID WE WOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER SPANISH REQUEST, AND ASSURED HIM WE WOULD RESPOND TO GOS SOON. THERE FOLLOWED A DISCUSSION ON THE STATUS OF DEFENSE NEGOTIATIONS AND A GENERAL BRIEFING ON MIDDLE EAST PROSPECTS BY SISCO. KISSINGER

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